

**To Whom it May Concern:**

**26 January 2006**

My name is Doug Stuber, I occasionally produce field documentaries for The People's Channel, which operates under the good graces of Time Warner Cable in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I strongly believe that the airwaves should remain public. The whole public, not just those who can afford to buy network affiliations, or a bank of satellite dishes to be part of the cable world.

Here in the "triangle" we already have a situation where the same local broadcasting company owns the CBS and Fox affiliates. Reduced gatekeepers means reduced ideas about what the news is and should be. this threatens one of the best checks on runaway government power, even if in our case, the check is cameras at our local town meetings. The ongoing power grab by our executive branch could easily filter down to local governments if local access cable production is stripped away by powerful cable providers who no longer want to supply one channel to locally produced shows.

I believe the points listed below are valid, and any change in the current system, where cable operators are responsive to the localities they serve would be a big mistake. An Orwellian sized error.

- In most communities, the noncommercial PEG TV channels deliver more original locally-made shows than all the commercial television stations combined. We need to protect localism in the media.
- PEG TV channels reflect the diversity of local communities. They provides noncommercial programming for seniors, for the disabled, for youth, multi-lingual programming for ethnic communities, and others that are often neglected by the commercial media.
- In many communities, PEG provides the only coverage of local government. Eliminating PEG will reduce the opportunity for citizens to stay informed about local government issues.
- PEG and local public access centers are the only means by which individuals and non-profit organizations can freely or affordably access the tools and training to produce their own programming and to express their own point-of-view through the media.
- Democracy works best when the widest range of ideas and opinions are circulated. PEG TV is a rich "marketplace of ideas", and plays a important role in our democracy.

Sincerely,

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